

# Opportunities for DREAM Applicants

## Special Place Development—Downtown Vision Institute

Participants will learn why authenticity is important for downtown revitalization; will identify distinct local features of their downtowns; define downtown visioning and its importance; identify key steps in the downtown visioning process; identify examples and resources to conduct successful downtown visioning; and take an active leadership role in their downtown visioning process.

### **Locations and Dates:**

#### **Training Times:**

**Day 1 - 9:00am – 4:00pm**

**Day 2 – 8:30am – 3:30pm**

#### **Joplin**

**February 12-13, 2007**

#### **Liberty**

**April 2-3, 2007**

#### **Rolla**

**May 21-22, 2007**

#### **St. Charles**

**March 5-6, 2007**

#### **Kirksville**

**April 30-May 1, 2007**

#### **Booneville**

**June 11-12, 2007**

#### **Cape Girardeau**

**March 12-13, 2007**

Warrensburg Date To Be Determined\*

*\*Final details on locations and times will be posted to the DREAM website at  
[www.dream.mo.gov](http://www.dream.mo.gov)*

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Register:** Department of Economic Development  
Keisha Gray  
573-522-4173  
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Workshops are free for each identified DREAM applicant community.  
(8 events over the next year).

**Presenters:** W. Arthur Mehrhoff, Ph.D. and Mr. Randy Gray

W. Arthur Mehrhoff, Ph.D. (Emeritus Professor) has worked in community design and heritage preservation for three decades. He received a Master's degree in Urban Affairs from Washington University in St. Louis and a Ph.D. in American Studies (emphasis in material culture studies) from St. Louis University. His M.A. thesis on citizen participation in

environmental impact analysis eventually became a book entitled Community Design: A Team Approach to Dynamic Community Systems (Sage Publications, 1999), and his Ph.D. dissertation was published as The Gateway Arch: Fact and Symbol (Popular Press, 1992). He created the Heritage Preservation program and taught community design and heritage preservation for fifteen years at the Minnesota State University in St. Cloud.

For fifteen years he served as Community Relations Coordinator and Chair of the award-winning Minnesota Design Team, and received a Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He was a keynote speaker for the June 2003 National Trust for Historic Preservation “Your Town” workshop in West Virginia, and his article on Cultural Tourism is featured in the Encyclopedia of Urban America: Cities and Suburbs (ABC-Clio, 1998).

Dr. Mehrhoff conducted background research and prepared narrative text for a successful National Register nomination for Midtown Saint Louis, and as a city planner for the City of St. Louis prepared a successful grant application to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for technical assistance to restore the Scott Joplin home in north St. Louis. He also worked as a museum educator at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in downtown St. Louis.

Professor Mehrhoff currently serves as a Guest Lecturer in American Culture Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, contributed to The Buildings of Missouri architectural history project under the editorship of Dr. Osmund Overby, and works with the Missouri River Communities Network on its Heritage Tourism Initiative.

Randy Gray is the President of Special Place Development. The firm develops creative approaches to distinguish places by enhancing their authentic features to make them attractive for economic development and as a special place for residents and visitors. Mr. Gray’s twenty-one (21) years of experience includes providing assistance in Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Kansas, Florida and Missouri to more than 350 public and nonprofit entities in downtown revitalization, heritage tourism, fund raising, organizational capacity building, public art, historic preservation and economic development strategies and activities. Clients include city governments, downtown development programs, chambers of commerce, main street programs, neighborhood and not-for-profit organizations, and state and local development groups.

Mr. Gray served as the state coordinator for the Missouri Main Street Program for twelve (12) years and also held positions with the Neighborhood Assistance Program and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program while at the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Prior to employment with the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Randy worked as a Community Development Specialist with the Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments. He received a B.A. in History/Political Science from Culver-Stockton College.

Mr. Gray is the volunteer chairperson of the Columbia Public Art Committee, serves on the City of Columbia Cultural Affairs Commission, the board of directors for the statewide Missouri Downtown Association and is a member of the Columbia Art League. Randy has served as a member of the “Avenue of the Columns” development committee and the City of Columbia Community Development Commission. He is also currently providing technical assistance to the Missouri River Heritage Tourism Initiative.

Randy is a native Missourian and appreciates the diversity of the Show-Me state.